

## **UDOT encourages drivers to extend their holiday trips**

**Genelle Pugmire - Daily Herald | Posted: Monday, May 24, 2010 12:30 am**

The first holiday of summer will be here in one week, and so will potential delays on Interstate 15. Campers, boats, trailers and numerous minivans could potentially clog the I-15 artery leading to vacation retreats.

To help vacationers preserve their traveling sanity throughout the summer and to move motorists in a timely fashion, the Utah Department of Transportation is encouraging motorists to extend their weekend travel to minimize construction-related delays as part of the "Stay an Extra Day" promotion, [www.udot.utah.gov/stayanextraday](http://www.udot.utah.gov/stayanextraday).

The "Stay an Extra Day" promotion, supported by the Utah Office of Tourism, is focused on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Pioneer Day and Labor Day holidays as well as on weekends throughout the summer. UDOT and the Utah Office of Tourism have collaborated with lodging properties and attractions across the state willing to offer discounts or other incentives exclusively on the Thursday or Tuesday surrounding each holiday weekend and/or on the Friday or Monday of any other weekend.

The offers are posted on the UDOT "Stay an Extra Day" website as well as linked from the Utah Office of Tourism website ([www.travel.utah.gov](http://www.travel.utah.gov)). Offers include half-off a fourth night hotel stay over a summer weekend and a discount on a sunset cruise near Memorial Day.

"The I-15 Core will not have road closures on Memorial Day," said Heather Barnum, I-15 Core project spokeswoman. "Crews will not be working from Friday to Tuesday at 9 p.m. Overnight will also be a good time to travel."

However, Barnum also said that while they did not want closures on Memorial Day, she warned that closures will come after Memorial Day. Because of the number of closures through the coming months, there is a desire to give travelers the best deal possible. That includes not only financial incentives for lodging, but the best suggestions on when to travel to beat the rush or delay the return home.

Businesses interested in participating in the complimentary program can still submit offers or update existing offers already posted on the website.

For more information, contact Christian Davis at 1-888-i15Core or [christinadavis@utah.gov](mailto:christinadavis@utah.gov).

What to expect on I-15 this week:

- Drainage installation and subgrade work is underway along the southbound shoulder of I-15 north of Provo Center Street. Crews are working 24 hours a day. Large dump trucks

will be hauling material into the work area at night. Residents living adjacent to I-15 should expect noise associated with trucks and other heavy equipment working nearby.

- Pile driving operations will begin for temporary bridges along I-15 northbound at the Union Pacific Railroad and UTA tracks, at 820 North and at 2000 North in Provo (2000 South in Orem). This work will be performed during the day and is anticipated to last approximately 14 days.
- Lanes have been shifted and narrowed along I-15 southbound through the S-curve area in Provo. The speed limit is reduced to 55 mph. Motorists should anticipate travel delays during heavy commute times and longer delays during holiday weekends.
- Provo Center Street remains restricted to one lane in each direction under I-15 at night through the end of the week for pavement and soil investigation.
- Tree and topsoil removal and clearing of the right-of-way continue in the shoulder areas along northbound I-15 between University Avenue in Provo and University Parkway in Orem. This activity will continue through mid-June.
- Crews are clearing and removing trees from the right-of-way along the northbound (east) side of I-15 between University Avenue and 600 South in Provo. Grading, material hauling and placement, and other work associated with temporary widening will take place 24 hours a day in this area.
- Beginning Tuesday, sound walls will be removed along the northbound (east) shoulder of I-15 between University Avenue and 600 South in Provo. This work will take approximately two weeks. The sound walls will be replaced once the project is complete.
- Construction of temporary bridges over 600 South and 920 South in Provo is scheduled to begin in early June. This will involve material hauling, pile driving, and other work on the east side of I-15. Crews will be working 24 hours a day.
- Work to temporarily widen the northbound side of I-15 between University Avenue in Provo and Spanish Fork Main Street continues. Once complete, all traffic will be shifted onto the northbound lanes while crews reconstruct I-15 southbound. All lanes in each direction will remain open during the day with possible lane restrictions at night.